

the associated support roller defining a void in fluid communication with the source of compressed air.

7. Apparatus according to Claim 2 wherein the holding device also includes a load-sensing unit.

8. Apparatus according to Claim 2 wherein the holding device also includes at least one pressure cylinder.

Please delete claim 1.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, independent claim 2 with dependent claims 3-10 remain present in the application.

Page 6 of the specification was amended such that all of the features shown in Figure 5 are discussed in the same paragraph. Claim 6 was amended to recite that surface 28 of the guide units and the associated support roller form void 29, as shown in Figure 5 and discussed in the paragraph discussing Figure 5. Accordingly, such amendments do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 5-8 were objected to as being apparatus claims which depend from a process claim. Claims 5-8 have been amended to depend from claim 2.

Claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the Office Action alleging that "there is no disclosure within the Specification to adequately describe how the plurality of endless belts work or what is their function within the holding device. The function of the belts is not clear since the horizontal movement of the reel holding the pulp sheets is actuated by cylinders rather than belts."

Applicants respectfully submit that the description of Figures 3-6 sufficiently discloses the function of endless belts 23. Specifically, the subject specification teaches that the "support rollers 21 are protected against dirt accumulations by a special device, which ... consists of two deflection rolls 22 per guide unit 26 ... where

one roll 22 can be tensioned. An endless woven belt 23 ... runs round the deflection rolls 22. The support rollers 21 are secured to this belt 23". (Page 5, line 30 to Page 6, line 5) Figure 5 ... shows the endless woven belt 23 ... which also moves along close to the wall surfaces 28 of the guide unit 26 on the other side." (Page 6, lines 7-13) "The deflection rolls 22 have two trapezoidal grooves, for example, with two trapezoidal guide profiles 24 also being provided on the endless woven belt 23, for example, which mesh into the grooves in the deflection rolls 22 and thus, prevent the belt from running off track to the side." (Page 6, lines 15-19) As thus described and shown in the figures, endless belts 23 are not intended to support or move the holding device 11 or the horizontal reel 1. The endless belts 23 are intended to protect the support rollers 21 from the accumulation of dirt. Accordingly, the endless belts 23 close the sides of the guides 26. As the holding device 11 moves horizontally in the guides 26, the endless belts 23 must also move. This is accomplished by the connection between the holding device 11 and the endless belts 23 provided by rollers 21, 22. These rollers have vertical axis, as can be seen in Figure 3. Since the endless belts 23 are only a protection against dirt accumulations in the guide units 26, the endless belts 23 do not require a separate drive. Rather, the endless belts are moved by the movement of the holding device 11 and the rollers 21 connected to the belts 23. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, must be withdrawn.

Claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 2, the claim has been amended as suggested in the Office Action.

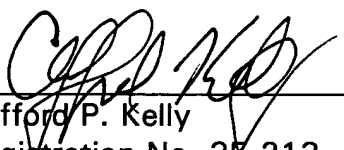
With respect to claim 6, the claim has been amended to recite that the inner surface of the guide unit and the associated support roller define a void in fluid communication with the source of compressed air. Such structure is clearly shown in Figure 5 and disclosed in the specification, which states that "Figure 5 now shows ... the structure of the support rollers 21 ... The surfaces 28 of the guide unit 26 are

visible on the top and underside. ... the void 29 created by this device is protected against dust entering by the constant supply of compressed air blown in from an air source 31." The meaning of all portions of claim 6 are therefore clear in view of the teaching of the specification and figures of the subject application.

The Office Action states that claims 2-10 "would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph". In view of the above-directed amendments and the proceeding remarks, prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

The paragraph on Page 6, lines 7-13, has been amended as follow:

Figure 5 now shows a sectional view taken along the line V-V in Figure 4, where the structure of the support rollers 21 is visible. The support rollers 21 run here on rails 27. The surfaces 28 of the guide unit 26 are visible on the top and underside. This illustration also shows the vertically arranged endless woven belt 23, to which the support rollers 21 are attached and which also moves along close to the wall surfaces 28 of the guide unit 26 on the other side. In addition, the void 29 created by this device is protected against dust entering by the constant supply of compressed air blown in from an air source 31.

The paragraph on Page 6, lines 21-26, has been amended as follow:

Figure 7 shows an extract VII from Fig. 6. This illustration clearly shows lateral slots 25 in the wall 28 of the guide unit 26, which are used to guide the belts 23 and as seals. [In addition, the void 29 created by this device is protected against dust entering by the constant supply of compressed air blown in from an air source 31.]

In the claims:

Claims 2 and 5-8 been amended as follows:

2. Apparatus for continuously reeling a pulp sheet, comprising:
 - a horizontal reel adapted for having the pulp sheet wound thereon;
 - a reel drum adapted for pressing the pulp sheet onto the horizontal reel;
 - a horizontally adjustable holding device including

a plurality of guide units, each guide unit extending horizontally from a first end to a second end,

at least one support roller disposed within each guide unit, the support roller being adapted for supporting the horizontal reel and pulp sheet wound thereon,

first and second deflection rolls rotatably mounted at the first and second ends of each guide unit, each of the deflection [roll] rolls having a vertical axis, and

a plurality of vertically arranged endless belts one of the endless belts rotatably running around the first and second deflection rolls of each guide unit; wherein each guide unit is sealed by the associated endless belt.

5. Apparatus according to Claim [1] 2 wherein each of the endless belts has oppositely disposed edges and each of the guide units has a wall defining a pair of slots, one of the slots enclosing each of the belt edges, whereby the guide unit guides the belt.

6. Apparatus according to Claim [1] 2 further comprising a source of compressed air and wherein the guide unit has an inner surface, the inner surface of the guide unit and the associated support roller [define] defining a void in fluid communication with the source of compressed air.

7. Apparatus according to Claim [1] 2 wherein the holding device also includes a load-sensing unit.

8. Apparatus according to Claim [1] 2 wherein the holding device also includes at least one pressure cylinder.